



# SAVING ENERGY AND MONEY

## ENERGY INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY

City of Beaver Dam, Wisconsin

### BACKGROUND

After receiving a planning grant from the Wisconsin Office on Energy Innovation, Mayor Glewen assembled the Beaver Dam Energy Team that consisted of a council member, the city administrator, several department heads, businesses, residents and schools. The team worked in collaboration with E3 Lighting, North Wind Renewable Energy, Alliant Energy, UW-Extension, and a UW-Madison student capstone class to set goals and develop the action plan.

### Q: WHAT IS AN ENERGY INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY?

A: Energy Independent communities (EIC) is a voluntary agreement between the State of Wisconsin and communities to adopt a goal of generating 25% or more of their energy from renewable energy sources locally by 2025.

### Q: WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

A: In simple terms, to be lean, clean and green. Cities that adopt an Energy Independent plan have a strategic method to utilize resources responsibly and keep energy dollars in their own community. The benefits of energy independence include: recurring annual savings to city operations, greater energy and economic resilience, improved environmental and public health, local job creation and, community engagement and pride. The method also shifts energy model to using cleaner, renewable resources and therefore less dependent on non-renewables such as coal, oil and gas.

### Q: WHAT IS THE PROCESS TO BECOME AN ENERGY INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY?

A: Below are the key objectives to developing an Energy Independent Community Plan.

-  Create an Energy Team of local stakeholders
-  Evaluate current energy use & sources
-  Determine energy efficiency & savings strategies
-  Determine the potential for generating energy from renewable resources locally
-  Evaluate & select strategy to reach 25X'25 or more as determined by the team
-  Develop an energy independence plan with projected savings & costs to implement

**GRANT FUNDING TOTAL \$360,739**

The City of Beaver Dam continuously seeks grant funding as opportunities become available  
Energy Independent Planning grant: **\$10,000**  
RECIP Grant: **\$62,860**  
Focus on Energy: **\$40,000 + \$257,879**

### COMMUNITY GOAL



### Achievable through

CONSERVATION

EFFICIENCY

RENEWABLE ENERGY

Below is a brief snapshot of project considerations.

Check out the full report available soon on [www.cityofbeaverdam.com](http://www.cityofbeaverdam.com)

### BIOGAS

In the private/public partnership, the Kraft cheese plant produces high-strength whey and byproducts. The City uses this waste to turn the byproduct into biogas. The City has a 10-year power purchase agreement with Alliant Energy through 2020. When the agreement expires, the city will use the power to offset the City's electricity usage.

### STREET LIGHTS

Upgrade the street lighting cost would be \$240,000 and would achieve a 3.3-year payback. Converting to LED would save \$64,320 annually.

### EQUIPMENT UPGRADES

A new boiler at the Library, HVAC upgrades, monitor and occupancy sensors, and blowers for the WWTP projects are already in the pipeline and would add additional savings. Upgrading 50% of interior lighting to LED by 2020 and 100% by 2025 in City facilities would contribute to savings.

### SOLAR

Two buildings viable for rooftop solar panels are the Watermark Community Center and the City Municipal Building. Ground mounted solar panels were identified for the WWTP.